



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

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Brooks Announces Major Improvements to Law Enforcement Communications System

Collaborative Effort with Sheriff, Police, Fire and EMS Will Enhance Public Safety

Monroe County Executive **Maggie Brooks** announced today that the County Legislature will consider a referral she has introduced calling for major improvements to the County's law enforcement communications system.

"Enhancing our public safety communications system will greatly improve the ability of our police agencies and first responders to work together in the most timely and effective manner possible," Brooks said. "Whether they are responding to a major incident, a traffic accident or a routine 9-1-1 call, our first responders will have the technology they need to get the job done and protect the citizens of Monroe County."

The terrorist attacks on September 11th, 2001 and natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina showed the challenges public safety officials can face in the event of an emergency. In response to these challenges, public safety advisory groups have called for communities to upgrade their communications systems. In addition, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has set new requirements for all public safety communications systems.

In light of these facts, and the fact that the current system is over 20 years old, **Brooks** met with Sheriff Patrick O'Flynn and all police chiefs in Monroe County to find a solution. Together, the various agencies came to a consensus whereby each department could meet its needs, in addition to controlling the cost of the project and protecting taxpayers.

"Not only will these enhancements greatly improve law enforcement's ability to respond to 9-1-1 calls, but it will also improve the Sheriff's department's ability to communicate with other police departments when we are responding to an incident or providing backup," said O'Flynn.

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Every police, fire and EMS department in Monroe County utilizes the public safety communications system. In addition to improving the system's infrastructure, the project calls for replacing the current one-way paging system with a two-way paging system, providing new two-way radios for all police departments and adding portable radios as well as mobile vehicle radios.

The project also calls for installing six new and two replacement antennas throughout the County to improve coverage and faster response time for the new two-way paging system, radio communications and mobile digital technology, which enhances police officers ability to receive calls from 9-1-1 through text messaging in their patrol cars. It will also help improve our existing ability to have County Sheriffs, City, Town and Village police officers, as well as our state and federal partners, communicate directly in a common emergency.

*"This project is further proof that when we work together, we can reach a consensus that is a win-win for the community," **Brooks** added. "I would like to thank Sheriff Patrick O'Flynn along with our Towns and public safety officials across Monroe County for their hard work and partnership in moving this project forward."*

The County will hold two Public Information Open House Meetings on the project. The meetings will be held Tuesday, January 24th from 5-8 p.m. at the East Rochester Village Office and on Tuesday, January 31st from 5-8 p.m. at the Ogden Town Hall.

The referral will be considered by the Legislature's Public Safety Committee on January 23rd and the Ways & Means Committee on January 25th. It will then be forwarded to the Full Legislature for its consideration on February 14th.